

## **Council on Aging Board Meeting**

### **January 12, 2005**

#### **In Attendance:**

Chairman Paul Keegan, Board members Al Crommett, Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Also present were Director Sharon Yager, Cynthia Willis, Walter Rice, and Maggie Briggs from the Age Center of Worcester.

#### **1. Chairman's Comments:**

Paul opened the meeting at 10:00 am. The minutes of the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board. Paul commented on his discussions with the MIS department regarding the COA efforts to better the S/W operations within Transportation activity.

#### **2. Director's Report:**

Sharon presented Board members a copy of the Age Center policy with regard to closing of nutrition dining sites during weather-related emergencies. She also presented the volunteer coordinator/SCPC liaison report which included minutes from the SCPC council meeting of December 13, 2004.

#### **3. Liaison Reports:**

**Central MA Agency on Aging**—no report

**Friends of the SCC, Inc.**—Sharon reported that the newsletter would be a 12-page document for the foreseeable future with adequate funding available from advertising and other sources. Efforts are under way to provide a laptop computer for the editor, Layah Lehmann whose work has relieved Sharon of some of the Newsletter related chores.

**Shrews.Comm.Part. /Children/Volunteer**—see note above.

**Elder Services of Worc. /Outreach**—Walter Rice presented a report of his December 2004 activity. He has initiated contact with St.John's High School to satisfy requests for help in snow shoveling walks—a constant problem for some seniors.

#### **4. Old Business:**

Paul reported on the COA budget review with the town manager. We can expect level funding at best for 2006 and our request for funding additional administrative help could not be supported. The Finance Committee review is scheduled for Saturday Feb.5<sup>th</sup>.2005.

Cynthia presented a report on her survey of residents of the 3 senior housing projects to determine transportation needs/desires, which may be satisfied by using our 3<sup>rd</sup> van. Our goal is to maximize use of this van to defray costs of operation.

Cynthia also reported on the results of her research into other possible S/W programs, which might be available to help in her transportation scheduling work.

## **5. New Business:**

Maggie Briggs is the new Director of the Worcester Age Center Nutrition Program. She offered the Board some insight into the efforts in process to improve the dining site program since they are working on a new 3-year contract. However the principal caterer is still the source, the use of commodity foods is mandated and the chief impetus is providing for the homebound clients. So it is difficult to be optimistic that much improvement will be forthcoming soon at the dining site.

Some discussion was initiated with regard to the development of a 5-year plan for the COA. John offered a few areas for consideration—Tim, Al and Helen agreed to look further at some of them—and the board agreed that a workshop should be scheduled perhaps in March 2005 to pull together our thoughts.

## **6. Other:**

Al offered some comments on the R.E. Tax write-off program, which currently has 14 slots available, not all presently filled. Paul indicated the accident insurance is covered for those participating.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Concordia. Secretary*